

ARIZONA NEWS RELEASE

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STATE DURUM WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST LOWER THAN LAST YEAR

Phoenix – In its first production forecast of the 2005 season, the Arizona office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service forecast the State's Durum wheat crop at 240,000 tons, down 17 percent from the 2004 crop. Area for harvest is estimated at 80,000 acres, yielding an average of 6,000 pounds per acre, up 180 pounds per acre from a year ago.

Final figures on Arizona's 2004 cotton crop show area planted to upland varieties totaled 240,000 acres with 238,000 acres harvested, both up 25,000 acres from last year. A record yield of 1,458 pounds per acre surpassed the previous record high of 1,410 pounds per acre in 1987. Final production was 723,000 bales, 31 percent higher than 2003. Pima cotton was planted to 3,000 acres. Yield of 896 pounds per acre from 3,000 harvested acres was down slightly from 2003. Final Pima production totaled 5,600 bales, 1,200 more bales than a year ago.